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Course: EDAL 560 K-12 Law
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Date: September 12, 1921

Case Analysis

Rose v. Council for Better Education, Inc.

Case Analysis Relevant Facts: On May 31, 1988, the judge:

Entered a document that is styled, "Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Judgment." The trial judge identified four issues before him: (1) The necessity for defining the phrase "an efficient system of common schools" as contained in Section 183 of the Kentucky Constitution; (2) Whether education is a "fundamental right" under our Constitution; (3) Whether Kentucky's current method of financing its common schools violates Section 183, and (4) Whether students in the so-called 'poor' school districts are denied equal protection of the laws. "Efficient," in the Kentucky constitutional sense, was defined as a system that required "substantial uniformity, substantial equality of financial resources and substantial equal educational opportunity for all students." Efficient was also interpreted to require that the educational system must be adequate, uniform, and unitary. (NECS, 1989)

Legal Issue: "Whether the Kentucky General Assembly has complied with its constitutional mandate to 'provide an efficient system of common schools throughout the state'" (NCES, 1989).

Opinion of the Court:

The trial court declared that students in property poor school districts are offered a minimal level of educational opportunities, which is inferior to those offered to students in more affluent districts. Such 'invidious' discrimination, based on the place of a student's residence, was determined to be unconstitutional. The trial court ruled that the school finance system violates the equal protection guarantees of Section 1 and 3 of the Kentucky Constitution. (NCES, 1989)

Reasons for the Court Opinion: The court's ruling is due to the fact that according to Section 183 of the Kentucky Constitution, (1) "The Kentucky finance 'system' of its common schools is unconstitutional and discriminatory; and (2) The system of common schools is not efficient" (NCES, 1989).

Reference

NCES. (1989). Rose v. Council for Better Education. Retrieved on September 12, 2021, from https://nces.ed.gov/edfin/pdf/lawsuits/Rose_v_CBE_ky.pdf

Grade A/comment: Great summary Nicole. You have covered all the 4 major required points in the case with excellent summaries. Thanks, Nicole for all your hard work on this case analysis. Keep up your great work.